

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in the application.

Claim Objection

The Examiner has objected to claim 3, alleging a minor informality. In response, Applicant has amended claim 3 and respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw this objection.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103

Claim 1 is rejected under U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ito et al. (U.S. Patent Application 2004/0234637).

Claims 2-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ito and further in view of Ogawa (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0014301).

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that:

the transfer device is provided with *a means for rotatably holding the vulcanizing tire and rotating the tire based on an axis of the vulcanized tire*, and is capable of placing the vulcanized tire on a predetermined rotation position on the rim.

This amendment does not change the scope of subject matter claimed but merely clarifies claim 1. It is supported at least by the exemplary embodiment shown in FIG 2, in which a rotation spindle 16 rotates the vulcanized tire K with respect to an axis of rotation X1. By the system of claim 1, the vulcanized tire itself is rotated in order to place the vulcanized tire on a predetermined rotation position on the rim.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable.

To adjust an attached positional relationship between the vulcanized tire in the PCT process and a rim of the PCT to which the tire is set, it is necessary that the vulcanized tire can rotate based on an axis of the vulcanized tire. Ito does not disclose all of the recitations of claim 1. Ito at FIGS. 1 and 2 disclose a vulcanizing system including a tire transferring apparatus 4 with a swiveling arm 23. Although the swiveling arm 23 rotates, there is no structure of the apparatus 4 that provides rotation *of the tire itself* based on an axis of the vulcanized tire. The transferring apparatus 114 in FIG. 8 of Ito has the same deficiency.

Moreover, Ogawa does make up for this deficiency. Ogawa merely discloses a pushing member 105 that pushes the inner surface of the tire to provide RFV correction.¹ There is also no disclosure regarding rotation of the tire itself based on an axis of the vulcanized tire.

Thus, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of independent claim 1.

With respect to dependent claims 2 and 3, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection at least because of their dependency from claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

¹ See Ogawa at FIGS. 2, 3, and 6; paragraphs [0049]-[0051].

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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